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To: Human Services Commission

As President/CEO of Pioneer Center for Human Services I want to thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony at this meeting.

This has been an extremely difficult year for us. We are a very diverse organization providing service to adults with mental illness, adults with developmental disabilities, sexual assault programming, child and adolescent services, and the homeless. We provide day programs, group homes, outpatient therapy for children and adults, and psychiatric services to over 2,500 individuals.

The losses of our grants is substantial. In our children and adolescent services at Youth Service Bureau, a division of Pioneer Center for Human Services, cuts could amount to \$350,000.

UDIS (Unified Delinquency Intervention Services) provided critical intensive support to delinquent youth to help them connect with school, jobs, mentoring and needed counseling in order to help them turn their lives around and stay out of the department of corrections. In our program, this grant supported transition of youth from more intensive services back to a productive life in the community. This grant ended 6/30/11.

Three other grants will end 10/31/11. Comprehensive Community Based Youth Services (CCBYS), Delinquency Prevention, and Communities for Youth Grants provided progressively intensive community based services to youth to prevent and/or interrupt the cycle of juvenile delinquency and crime. CFY supported our unique and effective after school day reporting center. Severe and repetitive juvenile offenders are court ordered to attend this four day per week program for 6-9 months. In the program they learn new skills to avoid further criminal behavior, to establish positive healthy relationships and to change their criminal thinking patterns. This highly effective program has helped to almost eliminate county court commitments to juvenile corrections.

If Gov. Quinn closes juvenile correction facilities as threatened, these youth will be on the streets committing multiple crimes with no local or state programs to intervene in an escalating spiral of criminal behavior.

The loss of these youth service programs will result in increased juvenile crime, gang involvement, and the loss of young lives. The safety net for youth at risk is gone with these sweeping cuts. Our youth now will receive help only when they are seriously mentally ill, addicted to drugs and alcohol and/or seriously in trouble with the law. Penny wise - pound foolish, legislators and Governor!

"Expanding Opportunities Through Partnerships"

Late payments are the root of our major problem here at Pioneer. The state owes us approximately \$2.5 million. It costs us over \$1 million a month to run our organization with a budget of \$15 million. We are not entitled to expedited payments because we still have a small reserve. When our reserve got down to under \$1 million we sent letters asking for help. We knew within two payrolls for our 300 employees and operating we would be out of money at the end of May. After much letter writing and proving what dire straights we would be within a month the state finally released some money – OUR MONEY. Holding \$2.5 million owed to us for providing service in good faith is inexcusable. You make us beg for our own money. We are losing staff because no raises have been given in four years, and the worry of not knowing what will happen each year with the budget is too much stress for them to continue to work in human services. This is a sad commentary. I hope since you asked that you take time to listen.

Since 2009 I have had to re-evaluate my strategic plan and goals every year. Now it is about surviving and maintaining our existing program services. There can be no dreams of expansion or new innovative programming. Those days are gone; Illinois is a bad place for people with disabilities.

Please take a look at the inequities between the state and community funding.

FUNDING INEQUITIES I

Comparison of inflation rates and cost of living adjustments (COLA) for agencies serving people with developmental disabilities.

Provided by Don Moss & Associates

FISCAL YEAR	INFLATION*	DD COLA
2002	1.6%	0%
2003	2.3%	0%
2004	2.7%	4%
2005	3.4%	0%
2006	3.2%	3%
2007	2.8%	0%
2008	3.8%	2.5%
2009	-0.4%	0% with cuts in grants
2010	1.6%	0% with cuts in grants
2011	-	0% with cuts in grants
2012	-	5 % cut in grants
TOTAL	21%	9.5%

***Consumer Price Index-Bureau of Labor Statistics**

FUNDING INEQUITIES II

Comparison of state employee increases and cost of living adjustments (COLA) for
Community service providers serving people with developmental disabilities.

Provided by Don Moss & Associates

YEAR	STATE EMPLOYEES	COMMUNITY PROVIDERS
January 1, 2009	2.5%	0%-with reduction in grants
July 1, 2009	2.5%	0%
January 1, 2010	2%	0%-with reduction in grants
July 1, 2010	1%	0%
January 1, 2011	1%	0%-with reduction in grants
July 1, 2011	2%	0%-with 5% reduction in grants
January 1, 2012	1.25%	0%
February 1, 2012	2%	0%
TOTAL	14.25% -Plus merit increases	0% with reduction in grants